



Good News from Parks and Recreation January 2013

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue Facebook icon on our website:
<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

Recreation and Special Events

For updated information on cross country ski trail conditions, call the City's Trails Hotline at 730-4321. Lack of snow continues to be a problem. Staff are grooming as much as they can as the weather allows.

Outdoor skating rinks are doing well. There are many available this winter across the City:

We thank all the Hockey organizations and community volunteers for providing these skating opportunities. With the Parks Fund, City staff are able to provide more assistance to community groups for making and maintaining ice.

Bayfront Skating Rink

Bayfront is up and running, fully staffed 7 days a week, with extra opportunities for Family Fun including recreation equipment, craft activities, Friday Bonfires, and - if we ever get measurable snow - sleds, snowshoes, and cross-country skis to use! The Bayfront Family Center is open

Monday-Friday 4:00 PM-8:00 PM, Saturday/School Holidays 1:00 PM-8:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 PM-5:00 PM.

Chester Bowl Speed Skating Rink

The Chester Bowl Speed Skating rink is open, hours dependent on volunteers.

Duluth Heights Skating Rink

The Duluth Heights skating rink is open Monday-Thursday 5:30 PM-9:30 PM, Saturday 12:00-4:00 PM and Holiday Breaks Monday-Thursday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM.

Lafayette Skating Rink

Lafayette skating rink is maintained by the City of Duluth and residents for public use, hours are dependent on volunteers.

Lower Chester Skating Rink

The Lower Chester skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 4:00 PM-8:00 PM, Saturday and Sundays hours are dependent on volunteers. Lower Chester is home for Congdon Hockey this year.

Memorial Park Skating Rink

Memorial Park has a “trailer” available for skaters to change into their skates. The hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday 2:00 PM-7:30 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 PM-5:30 PM, Friday 2:00 PM-8:30 PM. The Valley Youth Center is in charge of the opening/closing the building.

Merritt Skating Rink

The Merritt skating rink is open Tuesdays 5:30 PM-7:30 PM, Thursdays 7:00 PM-9:00 PM and some other days that are unscheduled.

Morgan Park Skating Rink

The Morgan Park skating rink hours of operation are Monday – Friday 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday 12:00 – 8:00 PM. Morgan Park graciously added Hockey teams from Irving.

Norton Park Skating Rink

Norton Park rink is maintained by residents for public use, hours are dependent on volunteers.

Piedmont Skating Rink

The Piedmont skating rink is open Monday-Friday 5:00 PM-8:30 PM, Saturday and School Holidays 12:00-8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM-5:00 PM.

Portman Skating Rink

Portman's skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 4:00PM - 9:00PM, Saturday 11:00AM - 8:00PM and Sunday 11:00AM - 5:00PM. During the holiday break and mid-winter break hours are Monday - Friday 11:00AM - 9:00PM and Saturday and Sunday 11:00AM-5:00PM.

Stowe Skating Rink

The City is maintaining the skating rink at Stowe this year. There is no building access.

Woodland Skating Rink

The Woodland skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 5:00 PM-9:00 PM and Saturday and Sunday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM.

This information is also available on the home page of our website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Downhill Skiing

Located in the heart of Duluth at 1800 East Skyline Parkway, Chester Bowl Ski Hill offers a wide variety of downhill skiing experiences. Daily lift tickets for all ages are \$5.25/per day. Besides being affordable, Chester Bowl is a great place to learn how to downhill ski for people of all ages. For more information go to <http://www.chesterbowl.org>

Parks and Recreation FREE - DECC Skating Party Sunday, January 27th "Skate with the Bulldogs"

Head down to the AMSOIL Arena on Sunday, January 27th for the annual Parks and Recreation skating party and "Skate with the Bulldogs". The men's UMD Hockey team will be on hand to skate with everyone. The skating party will be held in the AMSOIL Arena from 3:00-5:00 PM. This is a great event for families. Skaters can enjoy cookies and music provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. There will be free door prizes for the kids. DECC concessions will also be open during this time period. All skating parties are free and open to all ages. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants need to bring their own skates.

The final Skating Party for the season is on Sunday, February 24th 3:00-5:00 PM at AMSOIL Arena.

Parks and Recreation Heritage Skating

The Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM every Wednesday until the end of May. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West. These sessions are **free** and open to the public for pleasure skating. Please bring your own skates.

We also have special skating opportunities on Early Release School Days.



Last month we did a new event: Skating with Santa at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center on December 19th.

It was a huge success, with lots of participants (200+) and a great mix of groups who worked together to pull it off (Parks and Recreation, Heritage Sports Center, Boys and Girls Club, Children's Museum, Clyde Iron, and donations from Cub Foods). There was cookie decorating, ornament-making, face painting, science experiments with 'snow', and a whole 2 hour visit with Santa AND Rudolph, who skated with everyone!

It was AWESOME.

Billiards, Anyone?

Register by February 1 at the Lincoln Park Center for the 39th Annual City of Duluth Senior Eight-Ball Pocket Billiard Tournament. There is a \$7 registration fee and all female and male participants age 55 and over are invited to play. Round Robin games can be played until March 1 in any senior center or other billiard parlor, provided the time and place are mutually agreed upon. Playoffs will take place on March 4-5 at the Lincoln Park Center, 2014 West 3rd Street, with finals held on Wednesday, March 6. For more information, call 218.730.4306.

Play Gym at Duluth Heights. Unstructured, free, rain or shine playtime for preschoolers.

Wednesdays 9 am to 12 noon at the Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center, 33 Mulberry St. For more information, call 730-4322.

We are remodeling our Website!

City staff are working diligently to improve the Parks and Recreation website. It will be more user friendly and have more information, maps, and pictures. Stay tuned for a launch date.

2012 Mini-Master Plans

Completed Brighton Beach, Washington Square Park, and Lower Chester Recreation Area.

Memorial, Morgan Park, and Gary/Stowe plans have been presented to the Parks Commission for their initial review. A final community meeting for each of these will occur before the Parks Commission votes on whether or not to approve them. The final step is City Council approval.

The Morgan Park plan was presented at the Morgan Park Community Club on January 8 for final comments. The Memorial Park plan will be presented at the West Duluth Business Club meeting on February 27. A meeting is being scheduled with the Gary Community Club.

Chester Bowl's Mini-Master Plan will continue into 2013 with public input meetings. There are many issues to still resolve due to the flood that impact the plan.

2013 Mini-Master Plans

Staff are readying Request for Proposals for three Mini-Master Plans to be done in 2013: Hartley Park, Wheeler Athletic Complex, and Citywide Cross Country Ski Trail System. These will soon be published for bids so work can begin this spring.